

13TH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

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SECRETARY

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SENATE

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S. No. 532

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the "Books For the Barrios Program" to give the Filipino youth, particularly those living in remote barangays, the chance for upward mobility through education not only by listening but also by reading.

The compulsory education of children is the government's responsibility. As a Constitutional mandate, the government has always given priority to education. But the necessity of having books as a tool for better education seems to have been overlooked. Most public elementary and secondary schools in remote barangays do not have a library or even a small reading area in the school premises for the simple reason that there are very few books or any reading material available.

Education is not only about learning how to read and write, it should be a continuous infusion of knowledge and information. Only by providing the environment for a steady process of intellectual growth gained through reading can the government truly achieve the objective of an effective education.

Approval of this bill is earnestly urged.

  
MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BOOKS FOR THE BARRIOS PROGRAM AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress  
assembled:*

- 1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Books for the Barrios Act of 2004.”
- 2 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give the  
3 Filipino youth, particularly in remote areas, the chance for upward mobility through education  
4 not only by listening but also by reading. Towards this end, all public schools and libraries in  
5 remote barangays shall be provided with books under the Books for the Barrios Program.
- 6 SEC. 3. *Books for the Barrios Program.* – There shall be established under the Department of  
7 Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the Books for the Barrios Program, hereinafter referred  
8 to as the Program. For this purpose, the instructional materials council secretariat of the DECS  
9 shall be in-charged of the program and shall have the following additional functions:
- 10 (a) Prepare a list of all public schools and libraries throughout the country and regularly  
11 update the same;
- 12 (b) Formulate guidelines and standards for availment of the benefits under the Program;
- 13 (c) Accept and issue receipts for donations of books, magazines and other educational  
14 materials for distribution to qualified schools and libraries;
- 15 (d) Designate non-government organizations which may solicit book donations or  
16 distribute books and other educational materials under its supervision;

1 (e) Make an inventory every three (3) months of all the books and other educational  
2 materials under its supervision; and

3 (f) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of  
4 the Program.

5 SEC. 4. *Scope and Coverage of the Program.* – All elementary and secondary public schools  
6 and public libraries in remote barangays throughout the country shall be entitled to the benefits  
7 offered by the Program: *Provided,* That public schools shall be required to establish their own  
8 libraries: *Provided, further,* That private schools and libraries in remote barangays may avail of  
9 the benefits under the Program subject to the guidelines and standards as may be prescribed by  
10 the DECS.

11 SEC. 5. *Mechanics of the Program.* – (a) The DECS shall introduce the Program through  
12 the different government offices, agencies and institutions, the state colleges and universities,  
13 non-government organizations and private establishments which shall solicit from their officials,  
14 employees and members donation of used books, magazines and other educational materials;

15 (b) The DECS may also solicit books from foreign sources;

16 (c) At the end of every school year, all graduates from all levels shall be encouraged to  
17 donate their books and other educational materials to the Program;

18 (d) Nongovernment organizations as may be designated by the DECS shall be authorized to  
19 solicit and distribute book donations in accordance with the guidelines as may be  
20 formulated by the DECS: *Provided,* That reports shall be submitted to the DECS as to  
21 the manner and number of books received and distributed; and

22 (e) The books and educational materials received shall be inventoried and distributed to  
23 qualified schools and libraries as may be determined by the DECS in accordance with  
24 the guidelines as may be formulated for the Program;

25 SEC. 6. *Annual Report.* – The DECS shall submit an annual report to the President of the  
26 Philippines and the Congress on the implementation of the Program which shall include the  
27 number of books and other educational materials solicited and distributed and the beneficiaries  
28 thereof.

1 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DECS shall issue the necessary rules  
2 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

3 SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to initially implement the Program shall be  
4 charged against the current year’s appropriations of the instructional materials council secretariat  
5 of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary  
6 for the continued implementation of the Books for the Barrios Program shall be included in the  
7 annual General Appropriations Act.

8 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof  
9 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

10 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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13 Approved,